

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 5-12 are now present in this application. Claim 5 is independent. Claims 1-4 have been canceled. Claims 6-12 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,631,440 to Robbins. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding to the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 5 is allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Claims 6-12

Claims 6-12 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant

submits that claims 6-12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 5, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 5, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable.

Consideration and allowance of claims 6-12 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

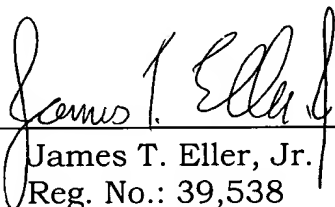
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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